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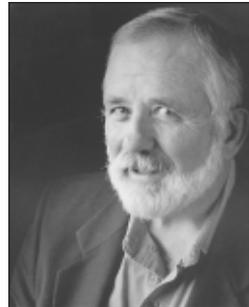
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S U M M E R • 2 0 0 1

1856 Gristmill At 50th & Browndale Gave Edina Its Name



By Joe Sullivan, Freelance Writer and Edina resident

During the 50 years prior to 1930, Minneapolis was widely known as the flour milling capitol of the world. Flour mills powered by the Mississippi River and St. Anthony Falls made the city a headquarters for major milling

companies and brands with familiar names like Pillsbury's Best, Robin Hood and Gold Medal.

But in the mid-1850s, long before Minneapolis became a worldwide milling center, hauling grain in horse-drawn wagons over long distances to the mills at St. Anthony Falls was difficult, to say the least. Roads were often impassable – especially in winter and spring. As a result, small gristmills sprang up along several creeks that ran through the land where much of the area's grain was grown.

gristmill, *n*; a mill to which the grain of many customers is brought to be ground separately.

Today, those of us who live in Edina tend to think of Minnehaha Creek as a meandering brook that gets fairly shallow in the summer. But in the mid-19th century, it was more like a river, with a racing, year-round current that was more than strong enough to provide power for gristmills.

In 1856, one of the first of six gristmills located on Minnehaha Creek was built on the north side of what is now 50th Street, just east of today's Browndale Avenue bridge and about 150 feet from the creek.

At First, Mill And Town Were Called Waterville
Land for the mill was purchased by Jacob Elliot, Capt. Richard Strout, Levi M. Stewart and Joseph Cushman.



Minneapolis Public Library photo

This photo of the Edina Mills was taken in 1926. In a 1975 article in Minnesota History magazine, Edina architect and resident historian Foster Dunwiddie wrote: "... in the period between 1855 and 1874, no less than six flouring mills were built along [Minnehaha Creek], which meanders for 21 miles from Gray's Bay on Lake Minnetonka to the Mississippi River.

They hired William Marriott, pioneer Edina carpenter and farmer, to build the mill. (Marriott received a cow for his labors.) The mill and the tiny settlement that sprang up around it were named Waterville Mills.

Just west of the mill, a dam with a 15-foot fall was built. A concrete "raceway" was erected north of the dam to divert water from the millpond to power the mill's water wheel. After passing under the mill, the water ran back into the creek's main channel downstream from the mill.

From places as far away as Excelsior and St. Anthony, pioneer farmers brought their wheat, rye, oats, barley and corn to the gristmill, always leaving behind one-tenth of their flour or meal as payment to the miller. Angus Grant and Edina architect and resident historian Foster Dunwiddie wrote in the April 1997 *Lake Area News*: "The capacity of the mill was approximately 250 bushels per day...Wages of \$2 per day were paid to skilled mechanics and \$1 a day for laborers. An early account reveals that 'it was not unusual to see as many as 25 ox teams at the mill at one time.'"

In 1859, the mill was resold to William Rheem and Jonathan T. Grimes. Grimes also operated a large nursery in what later became the Morningside neighborhood of Edina. The new owners built a new dam and kept the mill running day and night during the Civil War making flour requisitioned by the government for the Union Army. In 1867, the mill again changed hands and Daniel H. Buckwalter became its owner.

Andrew Craik Buys Mill – Renames It 'Edina'
During its first 10 years of existence, the mill was identified by a succession of names. After being called the Waterville Mill, it was renamed the Red Mill and then the Buckwalter Mill. Not until 1869, when Scotsman Andrew Craik



Hennepin County Historical Society photo

A road and bridge crossed the creek on top of the milldam. The road was later extended north to what is now West 44th Street and named Browndale Avenue.

purchased the mill and some surrounding farmland, was it given the name "Edina." It was a nickname for his birthplace in Edinburgh, Scotland, that appeared in a poem written by Scottish poet Robert Burns in 1856.

When he came to Edina, Craik brought two new products – oatmeal and pearl barley. The Edina Mills were the first in the state to make them. For many years it was the only place in the area to get either item.

The first thing Craik did after changing the mill's name was to hire Scottish miller George Millam. A 1976 *Edina Sun* article quoted Millam: "The Edina Mill was some mill



This business card dates back to 1869-1875, when Andrew Craik owned the Craik & Son General Warehouse in Minneapolis. More than 100 retailers throughout the Twin Cities were supplied with feed and grain from this location in addition to oatmeal; pearl barley; corn meal; rye, white and graham flours; and cracked wheat.

when I first came here ... We used to grind for all the nearby farmers and our patrons included even the Sioux [Indians]... The Indians used to bring us their corn when they were on their way to blueberrying in Wisconsin, and then get the grindings on their way back to the Minnesota River for winter

encampment." Millam purchased the mill from Craik in 1875. Although it had originally been powered by a wooden overshot water wheel, the mill was converted to turbine power. By 1879, three turbines drove the millstones and other milling machinery. The submerged turbines were superior to the old water wheel because they required less maintenance and did not freeze in winter.

Henry Brown Acquires Craik Farm & Edina Mills

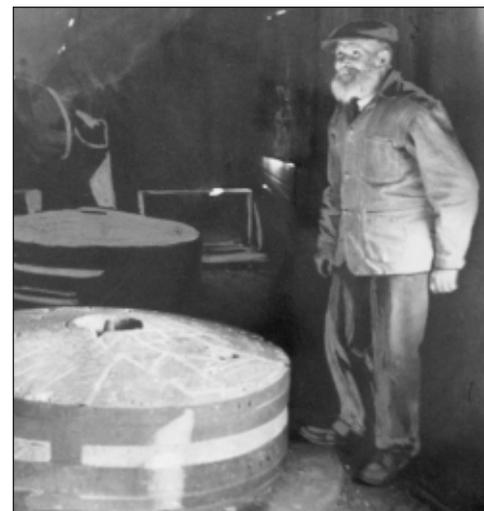
Between 1872 and 1874, Henry F. Brown, a pioneer lumberman and livestock breeder from Minneapolis, had purchased the nearby farms of John Chambers and George Midwood. Andrew Craik died in 1892 and Brown acquired the Craik farm two years later. He built a large house and

outbuildings for his livestock farm, which ran north of Eden Prairie Road (now 50th Street) on both sides of the creek and millpond. There, he raised some of the finest Shorthorn cattle in America.

In 1889, Brown bought the mill from Millam. But the demise of the mill began in 1895 when a dam was built on the east shore of Gray's Bay on Lake Minnetonka, cutting the water flow of Minnehaha Creek considerably. For a time, a gas engine was used to grind feed for livestock, but it didn't work out and the mill came to a halt, never to start up again.

Brown used the mill to store grain until Thorpe Bros. Realtors bought the Browndale Farm and the Edina Mills

George Millam, known as "Edina's miller," was surrounded by old equipment inside the abandoned Edina Mills in this photo taken in 1928, four years before the mill was demolished. At left are two of the millstones that used to grind the pioneers' grist.



site in 1922 for the development of a new residential community called the Country Club District.

In 1923, the *Minneapolis Star Journal* interviewed George Millam, Edina's pioneer miller, then age 84: "... From the front porch of his home overlooking Minnehaha Creek and the mill of which he has been caretaker for 54 years, he watched the paving of streets in the Country Club addition where he used to hunt deer. He pointed to some golfers on the nearby links where the Sioux Indians under Chief Shakopee had set up their tepees while waiting for the mill to grind out barley and oatmeal. He told how the Edina Mills had ground flour for the troops sent to put down the Indian insurrection of 1862 at Fort Ridgely [near St. Cloud] and New Ulm."

A 1928 story about the old mill in the *Minneapolis Journal* described a melancholy scene: "Two old millstones, made of granite, covered with cement and bound with iron hoops, still stand inside ... The two covers that fit over the stones and kept the grain in place are thrown against one wall. The wooden elevators that carried the flour up into the loft, the old wooden hopper, the wooden cogged wheels are still in place. Below the main floor is the room and tank where the water used to rush in and turn the old wheel ... The millstones were imported French burr (or buhr) stones. They were made of a special quartz quarried near Paris."

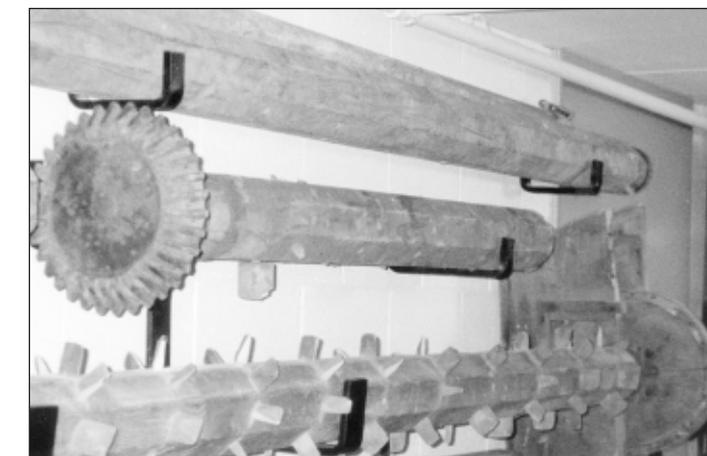
"There was no longer any commercial use for the mill," Ben Sherman wrote in the April 28, 1976, issue of the *Edina Sun*. "In disuse, the mill site soon deteriorated and became

somewhat of an eyesore in the developing Country Club district of Edina."

The 76-Year-Old Mill Was Razed In 1932

On Dec. 1, 1932, despite efforts to preserve it as an historic landmark, the old mill was demolished and its raceway was filled in.

Today, parts of the mill can still be seen at various locations in Edina. Dunwiddie and Grant identified the resting places of two of the old millstones: "A runner stone is in the flagpole base at Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church at 5300 Normandale Road (now Minnesota Highway 100).



Much of the Edina Mills' old equipment – including these wooden cogwheels, augers and pulleys – has been preserved in the Edina History Museum at 4711 W. 70th St. One of the mill's three turbines is on display outside the museum's main entrance.

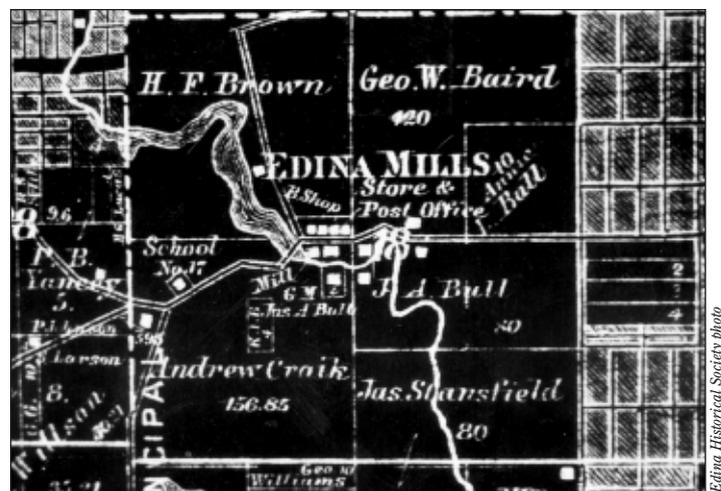
The matching stone, a bed stone, is set in the [entryway] floor at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church at 50th and Wooddale."

Three more millstones now rest on the old mill site in Dwight Williams Park at 50th and Browndale. The park is named for a young Edina serviceman who lost his life in World War II. The park site was purchased by Williams' parents and given to the City of Edina as a memorial to their son.

In his 1976 eulogy for the mill in the *Edina Sun*, Sherman concluded: "The dust that graced the miller and the mill's windows and the mill are now gone. However, the Edina Historical Society and various other groups have begun discussions dealing with the possibility of reconstruction of the Edina symbol or of an archaeological exploration of the mill's foundations. Until one of those options is chosen, a peaceful millpond, two exposed foundation stones and memories are all that remain of the small mill that gave birth to a city."

In the summer of 1977, an archeological "dig" at the old mill site did locate the exact outlines of the mill's foundation and found several remnants of the mill's equipment, including one of its turbines. Participating in that dig were Boy Scouts working toward merit badges, as well as teenagers from Edina and other communities connected with the Center for Community Action.

In the July 27, 1977, issue of the *Edina Sun*, Dori Egesdal described the objectives of the dig: "To try to locate the



The little community that built up around the Edina Mills served as an important business and cultural center for the surrounding countryside. By the mid-1870s, it had a cluster of houses, an Episcopal church, a schoolhouse, a blacksmith shop, a post office and a Grange hall. In 1888, when the community declared its independence from Richfield Township, the village was renamed Edina Mills.

mill, [its] orientation, direction, condition, evidence of remodeling and, hopefully, to take accurate records so that plans can be drawn up for future reconstruction."

After the search for artifacts was completed, the mill site was re-landscaped and identified with informational exhibits.

"It was a pretty important place 125 years ago," said Richard R. Busch, English teacher at Edina-East High

School and the dig's director. Busch also taught courses in archeology and worked at other archeological digs in Minnesota and South Dakota. "All roads in the area led to the mill and the bridge over Minnehaha Creek at the Edina Mills was one of the few crossings available in territorial times, before Minnesota became a state."

"... The deep, purring rumble of the massive millstones has died away. But old-time gristmills live on ...," Dunwiddie concluded in a 1975 article in *Minnesota History* magazine about Minnehaha Creek's six gristmills. Could that be an appropriate prophecy for the Edina Mill?

Background material and photographs for this article came from the archival collections of the Edina Historical Society, Minnesota Historical Society, Hennepin County Historical Society, Minneapolis Public Library and from the following publications: Lake Area News; Edina Sun; Minnesota History, magazine of the Minnesota Historical Society; the Minneapolis Journal; the Minneapolis Star; "The History and Architecture of Edina, Minnesota," by William W. Scott, A.I.A. and Jeffrey A. Hess; and "The History of Edina, Minnesota," by Paul W. Hesterman.

Could The Edina Mill Be Rebuilt and Restored?

Some people believe it would be wonderful to rebuild the Edina Mill. It would be a tremendous challenge to rebuild the mill so that it would fit aesthetically into the neighborhood that surrounds it today, but it could be done! A restored mill would provide an interesting and accessible tourist attraction and a memorable history lesson for our children. The old concrete raceway, a turbine and some of its original equipment have been preserved and are waiting to start grinding grain again. A rebuilt Edina Mill would again offer tangible testimony of the legacy handed down by our City's forefathers.

*Bob Kojetin
President
Edina Historical Society*

It's Not Only Neighborly ... It's The Law

Bicycling

Bicycling is a popular summer recreational activity. While there are some trails in Edina ideal for biking, many cyclists take to the streets and sidewalks during the warmer months. Bicycles can be ridden on sidewalks as long as bikers obey the following rules:



- Yield the right-of-way to pedestrians and give an audible signal when necessary before overtaking or passing any pedestrian.
- Leave a safe distance when overtaking another bicycle or pedestrian proceeding in the same direction and maintain clearance until safely past the other bicycle or person.
- Do not ride in any of the four municipal parking ramps.

Sidewalks are primarily designed for pedestrians. Occasionally, the City receives complaints of bikers driving

recklessly on sidewalks. The difference in speed of walkers and bikers dictates that caution must be used when using a bicycle on sidewalks. The City has the right to prohibit bicycles from being used on sidewalks in designated areas if necessary.

For more information about bicycle laws, please contact the Edina Police Department, 952-826-1610.

Grilling on Balconies and Patios

The familiar smell of brats and hamburgers on the grill is ever present during the summer months. Barbecuing is one of summer's favorite pastimes. However, the use of grills on balconies and patios has caused many serious fires in apartments and condominiums throughout Minnesota. As a result, the Edina Fire Code includes rules to avoid such blazes. According to Edina City Code:

Open Flame Prohibited. In any structure containing three or more dwelling units, no person shall kindle, maintain or cause any fire or open flame on any balcony above ground level, or any ground-floor patio within 15 feet of the structure.

Fuel Storage Prohibited. No person shall store or use any fuel, barbecue torch or other similar heating or lighting chemical or device in the locations designated above.

Exception: UL-listed electrical or gas-fired grills that are permanently mounted and wired to the building's electrical system and maintain a minimum clearance of 18 inches on all sides, unless listed for lesser clearances, may

be installed on balconies and patios when approved by the Fire Chief and/or Fire Marshal.

These rules apply to all structures with three or more dwelling units, including apartments, condominiums and townhouses.

Recreational Fires

Recreational fires have become very popular in the past several years, requiring the Edina Fire Department to review its policies.

Before having a recreational fire, residents must obtain a copy of the regulations from Fire Station No. 1, 6250 Tracy Ave. A signed copy of the policy will be kept on file. Before lighting the recreational fire, you must inform the Fire Department of what time the fire will burn. The Fire Department will have the latest information regarding burning bans and wind conditions that may prohibit recreational fires at that time. It is also important to inform your neighbors when planning a recreational fire. If the Fire Department receives complaints about a fire or it constitutes a hazardous condition, the Fire Chief is authorized to have the fire discontinued immediately.

Wood (logs a minimum of three inches in diameter), coal and charcoal are allowed for recreational fires. No rubbish, yard waste or construction debris may be burned. Requirements, such as maximum distances, maximum flame height and having a knowledgeable person in attendance, are outlined in the policy on recreational fires.

By following some simple rules, recreational fires can still be enjoyed by residents. The City hopes to continue allowing recreational fires, but if residents do not adhere to the policies, the City might ban these fires as other communities have done in recent years.

Proper Disposal of Grill and Fireplace Ashes

Proper disposal of grill and fireplace ashes can prevent fires that may occur when improperly disposing of the ashes. The proper way to dispose of grill or fireplace ash is to place it in a covered metal container. The cover should be airtight to choke off reignition. Allow the ash to burn out and cool for several hours before placing it into the container, which should be stored outside away from combustible objects or structures. The container can be left with the rest of the trash on garbage pick-up day.

For more information about summer grilling, building recreational fires or disposing of grill and fireplace ashes, please contact Fire Marshal Tom Jensen, 952-826-0377.

Know where your children are and who they are with.

Talk to your children about rules and consequences of alcohol and substance use.

Know your child's friend's parents and what their rules are.

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For more information call Bloomington Public Health: 952-563-8900

Hot Happenings In Park And Recreation

Summer is here and the City's Park and Recreation Department has a variety of events and activities for residents and children.

Summer Playgrounds

Children ages 6 to 10 can play and participate in special activities at many local parks. Countryside Park will be the home site for youth ages 9 to 12 years old. The kids can hang out with friends, play games and participate in special events specifically for their age group. Participants can make up new games or play old favorites. Art and crafts will also enhance the day. Come and decorate the building and have fun all summer long. The cost is \$15 per participant, and registration continues through July 26 at City Hall. Check the Activities Directory for locations, days and times or call the Park and Recreation Department, 952-826-0367, for more information.



Summer playgrounds

Chess In The Park

Checkmate! The Edina Chess Association will provide children with a new game to play outdoors this summer – chess.

Chess games will be offered at an Edina park (to be determined) during the afternoon one or two days a week. The program has been designed for children, but anyone is welcome to play. Although some chess sets will be provided, children should bring their own if they have one. One or two adults will be on-site to teach additional skills.

Registration is not necessary. For more information, visit the Edina Chess Association's website, www.edinachess.org.

Nature Camp

Discover the wonderful world of nature during a four-day nature camp from July 31 to Aug. 3. Children ages 6 to 10 will gather at Rosland Park (formerly Lake Cornelia) from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Campers will have an opportunity to play games, fish, learn about camping, trees, weather and more. The fee is \$55 per person. For information or registration materials, call the Park and Recreation Department, 952-826-0367.

Become A Magician

Edina Park and Recreation wants to give your child the opportunity to become a young magician. Let him or her experience what few rarely have – personal magic instruction. With our instructor's help, the small group

of 15 will learn how to perform magic, how to present magic and how to talk in front of groups. And to top it all off, everything needed for the class is included and given to the participant. A few tricks you will learn are welding string together, linking two paper clips together and learning the cup and ball trick.

Matt Dunn has been a professional magician for 12 years and has performed hundreds of shows all over Minnesota. He has been an instructor and is excited to share his talents with others.

Dates: Aug. 14, 15, 16
Times: 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.
Location: Walnut Ridge Park
warming house
Fee: \$28 per participant

For more information or to register, call Edina Park and Recreation, 952-826-0367.

Braemar Ice Arena

Registration for fall skating lessons will be held Wednesday, Sept. 5, from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the arena. Lessons begin mid-September. For public skating times, call 952-941-1322 or visit the City website, www.ci.edina.mn.us. A complete listing of ice rental information and lesson information is available.

Reserve A Park

Park buildings at Todd Park, Cornelia School Park, Weber Park and Walnut Ridge Park are available to rent

throughout the summer for birthday parties, small reunions, neighborhood meetings and other events. The parks have pleasant buildings, clean restrooms and easy parking. For more information, call the Park and Recreation Department, 952-826-0367.

Employment

The Park and Recreation Department offers part-time job opportunities with various programs during the summer and winter months at facilities such as Centennial Lakes Park and the Edina Aquatic Center. Contact the job hotline, 952-826-0400, for information.

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Centennial Lakes Park In Full Swing



Photo by Polly Norman

The North Park at Centennial Lakes Park invokes a "Northwoods" feel with dense trees, swinging benches and hidden trails.

After 10 years of development and construction, Centennial Lakes Park is now complete. The days of summer will offer the opportunity to enjoy park attractions, such as the Oval Gardens, Hedge Maze and Northwoods, or Rose Seating, Shade Garden and Boulder Pools.

"The new areas will provide a variety of choices for park visitors," said Manager Tom Shirley. "Everyone will be able to find their favorite spot or two throughout the park."

Features of the northern end of the park include gardens decorated with ornate landscaping and a maze created of hedges to explore and map through. Also, the recently completed park brings the spirit of the Northwoods to the

middle of the city with a wooded area complete with trails, climbing areas and swinging benches. There are also ample spots to sit by the lake. For a better view, you can also walk out to the Observation Point overlooking the water.

One of the highlights of the southern end of the park is the Umbrella Canopy, which like other areas of Centennial Lakes Park will mature over the years. During the next few years, the Umbrella Canopy will develop into an extensive covering of greenery, providing a perfect spot for a picnic or for kids to play. Other features include the Shade Garden, Rose Seating and Boulder Pools, sure to be a favorite with the children.



Photo by Polly Norman

The northern end of Centennial Lakes Park features intricate landscaping and hidden trails to create a "Northwoods" atmosphere.

Both ends extend from "Central Park," which features an 18-hole putting course, lawn games area and amphitheater. In addition, all three park areas offer distinctive pathways, lakes and fountains, seating areas and swinging benches.

The expansion and completion of Centennial Lakes Park will serve as a model to other communities. With an average of 250,000 visitors annually, and more than half of those coming from outside of Edina, the park serves as a significant attraction in the City. "We hope the additions and improvements to the park are well received by the community and surrounding areas," said Shirley.



Home Rehab Funds for Qualified Edina Home Owners



You may qualify for up to \$15,000 to make repairs or necessary improvements to your Edina home through the **Hennepin County Housing Rehabilitation Loan Program**. This program provides deferred repayment funds on a first-come-first-served basis to

people who can show financial need. If you would like to receive information, income guidelines, qualification summaries, interest rates, and applications, please call Associate Planner Joyce Repya at the Edina Planning Department, (952) 826-0462. Dozens of Edina residents have protected the value of their homes by using this program. If your primary residence is located in Edina and needs repair or structural improvements, please give Joyce a call.



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Wooddale Park - Picture Perfect

As part of the 1996 Park Referendum, Wooddale Park, located on the northwest corner of 50th Street and Wooddale, was identified as one of the City parks in need of repair and improvement. This summer, residents in the Country Club District will enjoy a new comfort station and playground equipment, as the renovation of Wooddale Park has been completed.

“We are extremely pleased with the improvements at Wooddale Park,” said John Keprios, Park and Recreation Director. “We worked tirelessly with neighborhood residents to create a welcoming and enjoyable park for everyone.”

The renovation of Wooddale Park was made possible through a cooperative effort between neighborhood residents and the Park and Recreation Department. When citizens voiced concern about changes planned for the area, the Park and Recreation Department created a forum for discussion, resulting in a positive experience for everyone involved. Residents of the area were concerned about the size, location and design of the restroom facility and recommended that new playground equipment be installed, as the equipment had become outdated and did not meet Code requirements.

“The park department staff was extremely gracious and understanding. They created a forum for everyone involved to work together,” said Anne Hall, nearby resident and mother of two. “Because many residents in this area have small backyards, Wooddale Park is heavily used by the neighborhood, and we wanted to be involved with any changes made to the park.”



Photo by Polly Norman

A young girl enjoys the swings at the recently renovated Wooddale Park. Behind her is the new comfort station, which features a family bathroom and ample covering for picnics or social gatherings.

The new comfort station now stands in the previous spot of the park gazebo, which has been moved across the street to Utley Park. The building features a “family” bathroom with hot and cold water and a baby changing station. The front of the building, with block and cedar siding, features a large awning over a concrete patio large enough for three picnic tables. The covered area also includes lighting for evening hours and electrical hook-ups.

To the east of the comfort station, new playground equipment has also been installed. The primary colors of red, blue and yellow were chosen in memory of Wooddale School. In addition, the neighborhood agreed that the bright colors evoked a child-like environment suitable for a playground. Features of the equipment include slides, swings, crawling spaces and a rock-climbing wall to accommodate a broad range of ages. The playground area is connected to the shelter building and parking areas by paved sidewalks. New landscaping has been placed throughout the park with additional trees and shrubbery to be added this summer.

Park hours are 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. The comfort station will be unlocked during daylight hours. The comfort station is not open during winter months.



Photo by Polly Norman

Families and children of all ages will enjoy the new playground equipment at the recently renovated Wooddale Park.



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City Celebrates Independence Day With '2001: A Star Spangled Odyssey'

Stars and stripes will be plentiful as the "2001: A Star Spangled Odyssey" makes its way down 50th Street in Edina during the sixth annual Fourth of July Parade.

One of the city's most popular events, the grand spectacle attracts thousands of people along the parade route, beginning behind Edina City Hall to the intersection of 50th Street and Halifax Avenue.

"We're expecting an even greater turnout this year, as the Fourth falls on Wednesday and more people are likely to



Snoopy and contest winner Tim Hopkins shared the honor of starting the 2000 Fourth of July parade. The contest, "Why I Should be the Kid Who Starts the Parade," will again be used to select an elementary school student to kick off this year's celebration.

be in town," said Susie Miller, Adaptive Recreation Supervisor and staff liaison to the Parade Planning Committee.

The generosity of local businesses has allowed the Parade Committee to expand parade entertainment. The parade's Gold Level Community Patrons include Barry Berg of Coldwell Banker Burnet, Crown Bank and Key Cadillac. Silver Level Community Patrons include Edina Cleaners, Edina Realty, Fairview Southdale Hospital, GTE Directories, Jerry's Foods, Markman Capital, Southdale Center and Sunrise Assisted Living. Bronze Level Community Patrons include Analysts International, Excel Bank, International Dairy Queen, Lions Club, NSP/Xcel Energy, Noonan Construction, Plekkenpol Builders, Teachers Federation Credit Union, Time Warner Cable, Verizon Wireless, Washburn McReavy Funeral Home and Waste Management. For an up-to-date listing of all parade sponsors and parade information, visit www.edinaparade.org.

"The involvement by local businesses has helped make the parade bigger and better than ever, while keeping the small-town feeling during the event," said Laurie Jung, parade committee chairwoman.

This year's expanded parade will offer something for everyone – more than 60 parade units including five marching bands. Parade goers can tap their feet to the sounds of the Edina High School Alumni Band, a Dixieland combo from The First John Philip Sousa Memorial Band, Edina Middle School's Summer

Marching Band, the Lakeville High School Marching Band, Minnesota Pipes and Drums and the Zurhah Steel Drum Band. Local businesses and organizations participating will include Coldwell Banker Burnet, Cub Scout Pack No. 62, Edina Fire Department, Edina Garden Council, Edina Lions Club, Senate District 42 Republican Committee, Southdale Sinclair/Edina Towing Service, Jugheads Youth Juggling Company, Girl Scouts, Edina Art Center and Wooddale Coterie.

The Parade Committee is encouraging some friendly competition among Edina's citizens in several categories. As in prior years, parade units will be judged for their creativity and overall parade impact with ribbons going to the first-, second- and third-place winners. Two new competitions have also been announced with prizes awarded. "Star Spangled Windows" will be open to middle school and high school clubs and organizations, and "Making a Star Spangled Spectacle of Ourselves" will position neighborhood organizations in competition with each other.

Entrants in "Star Spangled Windows" will be assigned windows in several Edina businesses to decorate with a theme incorporating their organization and the patriotic theme of the parade. Windows will be judged by a panel of judges and by the public via the parade website. The winning organization will be awarded \$250 for the group's treasury.

"Making a Star Spangled Spectacle of Ourselves" will challenge neighborhood groups to participate in the

parade with wacky, but tasteful, original entries. The entries will be judged on originality, theme, execution and grandeur. The winning neighborhood will receive an all-expense paid summer party at their neighborhood park, complete with burgers, brats and pop served by the Mayor and City Council Members.

And a return of last year's "Why I Should be the Kid who Starts the Parade" will allow elementary school students to show off their creative writing talents. The winner will have the honor of blowing the whistle to start the parade.

The parade begins at 10 a.m., and the Independence Day celebrations will continue throughout the day. The Historical Society will host the premier showing of the History of Edina video at Grange Hall and Old Cahill School where cookies and lemonade will be served. The video will be shown from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The Edina Art Center will host several events including Potter's Games, such as throwing on the Potter's wheel while blindfolded, tallest cylinder from five pounds of clay and musical wheels. The Art Center will also host an open house from 5:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. where visitors can view the Student Art Exhibition.

The First John Philip Sousa Memorial Band performs its traditional Concert in the Park at Rosland Park beginning at 8:45 p.m., followed by a spectacular display of fireworks at approximately 10 p.m.

Volunteers Honored At 22nd Annual Recognition Reception

A crowd of more than 225 people gathered at Edinborough Park April 24 to honor volunteers at the City's 22nd annual Recognition Reception. Four Mayor's Commendation Awards were presented and 21 community organizations recognized their own special volunteers.

Mayor Dennis Maetzold presented four prestigious awards, giving each recipient an engraved plaque and rose. The awards were:

Mayor's Service Club Commendation

Awarded to a club or organization that has made outstanding contributions to the community through its regular activities or special projects.

The Blue Ribbon Committee, a task force of the Edina City Council that spent many hours researching and deliberating the need for a park referendum in 2001, was this year's recipient. Its recommendation to proceed with the spring referendum made a considerable contribution toward a goal of Edina's Vision 20/20. Members of the committee included Jeff Bohlig, Mary Brindle, Ted Brinkman, Bob Christianson, Kris Hayes, Doug Johnson, Chuck Mooty, Linda Presthus, Dan Rectenwald, Ann Swenson and Jim Van Valkenburg.

Mayor's Individual Service Commendation

Awarded to an individual for outstanding and exceptional volunteer service to the community.

This year's recipient was Bob Kojetin for his continued support of Edina's parks. In 1994, Bob retired from



Photo by Polly Norman

A crowd of more than 225 attended the City's 22nd annual Volunteer Recognition Reception in April at Edinborough Park.

employment with the City after 32 years with the Park and Recreation Department. Since his retirement, Bob has continued to donate his time and skills to the City. His building, planting and remodeling efforts can be spotted at various City parks and facilities, including the Edina Art Center, Centennial Lakes Park, Fred Richards Golf Course, Arneson Acres, Braemar Golf Course and City Hall.

Mayor's Outstanding Senior Commendation

Awarded to a senior citizen for outstanding volunteer service within the community.

The 2001 award was given to Lila Larson for her involvement with the Edina Senior Center and FamiLink Edina. Over the years, Lila has been an advocate for seniors and has contributed to efforts including moving hospice care to a home setting, reinstating the "Vial of Life" program and being a strong advocate for a new Senior Center, which will be completed in 2002.

Mayor's Community Involvement Commendation

Awarded to a City employee for outstanding volunteer service to the community, above and beyond his or her position with the City.



Photo by Polly Norman

Lila Larson accepted the Mayor's Outstanding Senior Commendation for her work at the Edina Senior Center and FamiLink Edina.

John Keprios, Park and Recreation Director, was honored with the 2001 award for investing a substantial amount of personal time to further the development of the City's park system. He was instrumental in passing the 1996 Park Referendum and was just as involved in the recent referendum. John has donated time to preparing numerous presentations and giving in-depth tours of the park system to civic organizations, as well as attending meetings of the Blue Ribbon Committee. He is also an active member of the steering committee for "Connecting with Kids," a joint asset-building initiative of the City and Edina Public Schools.

Many service organizations also recognized their own exemplary volunteers at the reception. Awards were presented to: Pat Lutz, Athena Women's Club; Roberta Farris, Business-Education Partnership; Sandra Clark, Edina Art Center; Shirley Hunt-Alexander, Edina Chemical Health Partners; Mary Kay Hoffman and Barb Morris, Edina Family Center; Barb Johnson, Edina Federated Women's Club; Shirley Petersen, Edina Garden Council; Megan Grande, Edina Girls Athletic Association; Jim Anderson, Edina Golden K Kiwanis; Marshall Rinek, Edina Historical Society; Jim Zappa, Edina Human Relations Commission; Dick Johnson, Edina Lions Club; Andy Herring, Edina Park Board; Project Earth and Michael Pretasky, Edina Recycling and Solid Waste Commission; Ben Stone, Edina Soccer Association; Shadow the dog, Fairview Southdale Hospital; Shirley Rickord, League of Women Voters - Edina; Dr. Bruce Templeton, Southdale YMCA; Daryl Soltau, Southdale Y's Men's Club; and Dan Geere and Diana Wells, Edina Public Schools Youth Development - Youth Service.

Tom Jenson - Investigator, Inspector, Educator - The Many Faces Of A Fire Marshal

On a given day, Tom Jenson is involved with the investigation of a residential fire, a Code inspection at a local business and a meeting with an architect, contractor and building official. These, and a few other responsibilities, describe Tom Jenson's typical day as Fire Marshal for the City of Edina.

"The Fire Marshal wears a lot of hats, but I like that," said Tom. "I'm able to apply years of experience and knowledge, yet continue learning something new every day."

Tom started working for the Edina Fire Department as a volunteer in 1981. For him, it was a lifelong dream fulfilled. After passing up an opportunity to become a medic in 1994, Tom accepted a full-time position with the Fire Department as an inspector in the fall of 1998. In that role, Tom was responsible for commercial building inspections, Code enforcements, maintaining building construction compliance and educating the public on fire prevention. With the departure of Steve Landry in the spring of 2000, Tom applied for the Fire Marshal position and was named Fire Marshal by Fire Chief Marty Scheerer in April of 2000.

"Tom clearly demonstrated the skills and abilities required for the fire marshal position during his time as an inspector," said Scheerer. "Tom is a great problem solver who is always looking for better solutions. He also works well with the business community, as his experience allows him to see both sides of the issues involving building inspections and code enforcements."



Fire Marshal Tom Jenson

Photo by Polly Norman

This experience is the result of years of involvement with the fire department, as well as owning and operating a retail business. The skills Tom developed by running his own company are applied each day on the job as Fire Marshal. In addition, his experience as a business owner allows Tom to relate to many of the people he works with every day.

As Fire Marshal, Tom manages the Edina Fire Prevention Bureau, overseeing public fire education, fire inspections for Code enforcement, fire investigations, as well as all record keeping. Tom also maintains the technology system and supervises the transfer of information to the state fire marshal's office.

Tom's responsibilities and duties require him to participate in ongoing training. In addition to various networking events, Tom regularly attends seminars, training sessions and City Council meetings. Tom feels as though he is continuously learning by participating and becoming significantly involved in as many of these opportunities as possible.

"One of the most intriguing elements of my job is investigating fires," said Tom. "It's a mystery at first, like putting together a puzzle. The most rewarding aspect is being able to educate people of all ages about fire prevention and safety."

Tom is an advocate for learning from and being able to make a difference as a result of an unfortunate incident. Tom believes if there is a lesson to be learned from a

tragedy, it is his responsibility to inform the public and to get that message out to prevent further tragedies.

Tom is excited to be involved with the construction of new buildings and structures in Edina, such as the expansion of Southdale Center and Fairview Southdale Hospital, and the development of Grandview Square. Tom's duties require a significant amount of involvement with the building department and Chief Building Official Steve Kirchman. The camaraderie between the two departments allows for a smooth and well-informed transfer of information and a pleasant working environment.



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Young Adults Explore The Law Enforcement Profession

For the past 19 years, the City of Edina and Eden Prairie police departments have been working together to help the young men and women in their communities learn more about law enforcement by offering a Law Enforcement Explorers program. The program gives young adults the opportunity to explore the law enforcement profession, criminal justice system and become better citizens.

Associated with a special section of the Boy Scouts of America, the Law Enforcement Explorers program is designed to reach out to youth and let them see police officers from a different point of view.

“This program helps young individuals have a better understanding of what police officers do and why they do it,” said Brian Tholen, Edina Police Officer. “It also helps them become better witnesses and more informed citizens.

Explorers are trained on procedures such as accident and crime investigation, bomb threat investigation, hostage negotiation, domestic crisis intervention, firearms safety, first aid and CPR. Members also receive a first-hand account of police work by participating in a ride-along with a police officer on duty.

The program not only teaches Explorers about specific duties in the law enforcement profession, but also gives them the responsibility of managing each Tuesday night meeting. These responsibilities include taking meeting minutes and attendance, handling paperwork and coordinating all of the training sessions. Although members are given the responsibility of maintaining the

post, Edina Police Officers Brian Tholen, Kevin Rofidal, Kris Eidem and Jeff Elasky participate as advisers who oversee weekly meetings and training sessions.

Each post uses a ranking system that real law enforcement agencies use, thus giving each member an individual rank and promoting him or her when appropriate. Explorers gain additional first-hand experience by participating in special community events such as charity runs, crime prevention displays, Fourth of July fireworks and traffic direction.

Today there are more than 40,000 individuals in the program nationwide. Locally, there are 23 members in City of Edina/Eden Prairie Post 925. Each year this group travels to a regional conference in Breezy Point, Minn., to compete against other Minnesota-based posts in police-related events. Attendance at this event has grown to more than 800 people, including adult advisers and other individuals assisting with the event. Every two years, the post travels to compete nationally. These national and regional conferences allow members to attend seminars hosted by many state and federal law enforcement agencies such as the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), U.S. Marshals Service and U.S. Customs. Each agency also travels to individual posts throughout the year to teach Explorers more about the agency’s duties and responsibilities.

“It is great to watch the members learn and get excited when they compete. Because the program teaches responsibility, dedication and teamwork, it is especially

rewarding to watch the kids mature and build long-lasting friendships,” said Tholen.

In order to be accepted into the program, individuals must meet several qualifications:

- Must be between the ages of 14-21 (9th grade or above)
- Reside within the City of Edina, Eden Prairie or a city that does not offer an Explorer program
- Must have a good moral standing and be willing to have a criminal background check
- Be able to comply with all of the rules set by the Post
- Complete the membership procedure, which includes filling out applications for review and going through an interview process with post advisers and post officers. After successful completion of the interview, the individual will be put on a probation period and will become a full member when the full post votes on the application
- Must be able to attend weekly meetings

“The Explorers program is not just for people interested in law enforcement,” said Tholen. “The program provides its participants a unique learning environment to gain skills and knowledge that can be applied throughout their lives and in any profession they choose.”

If you are interested in learning more about the Explorers program, contact Brian Tholen or Kevin Rofidal at the Edina Police Department, 952-826-1600.



Explorer David Boosalis conducts CPR on an accident victim during a weekly post meeting. Explorers are trained on a variety of law enforcement procedures.

Photo by Polly Norman

Volunteer Celebrates 25 Years Of Service To Police Explorer Program

After a successful and rewarding career with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, long-time Edina resident Don Peterson was facing retirement and extra hours on his hands. Around this same time, his son, Tom, was becoming involved in a Police Explorer program for young adults interested in the law enforcement profession. Don began volunteering his time, experience and knowledge to the Explorer program and recently celebrated 25 years of

involvement with the Minnesota Law Enforcement Explorer Association.

Don was heavily involved in establishing a weekend retreat for Explorer posts in the upper Midwest region in the mid-1970s. The retreat had its start at a hotel in Bloomington, Minn. with about 50 Explorers and advisers attending a training seminar. The retreat outgrew its Bloomington

location and in 1978 moved to Breezy Point, Minn., where participants from Minnesota-based posts experience hands-on training and competition. In 2000, more than 800 Explorers, advisers and staff, attended the annual Explorer Conference. This tremendous growth and development has been a direct result of countless hours donated by Don.

“It has been a truly rewarding experience watching so many young adults learn and experience the law enforcement profession,” said Don. “I have watched the careers of many of the Explorers transpire as they become police officers and even move on to Police Chief.”

Don has been a strong proponent for the Explorers program, as he feels it provides a unique opportunity to experience and understand a career, such as law enforcement. “The program allows the participants to learn if becoming a police officer is really what they want,” said Don.

At last year’s 25th Annual Explorers Conference, Don was honored with the unveiling of a new traveling trophy titled “The Dons,” in recognition and appreciation of three of the program’s core directors: himself, Don Clough and Don Omodt. Nearly every Explorer that goes through the program knows the name Don Peterson and that he is their Exploring leader. “I’m just happy I was able to continue doing something worthwhile and interesting,” said Don.



Don Peterson

Photo by Polly Norman

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Adaptive Golf Program On Par

As the sun begins to set over Braemar Golf Course in Edina, some of its most enthusiastic members remain on the course. These golfers are members of the City of Edina's Adaptive Recreation Program. Edina offers a variety of adaptive recreation programs in areas such as golf, downhill skiing, basketball and other exciting activities for participants ages three and older.

More than 10 years ago, Professional Golf Association (PGA) members Larry Nelson and Mike Grube started a golf league for people with disabilities at Rich Acres Golf Course in Richfield. They realized a need for such a program because people with disabilities enjoy participating in golf and deserve the opportunity to learn the sport.

When Rich Acres was forced to close in 1998, Larry and Mike moved to Braemar Golf Course and joined with Edina's Adaptive Recreation Program to continue offering the service. Since that time, the program has reached its full capacity of 30 participants with a long list of people waiting to participate in future lessons.

"The participants in this program are some of the happiest and most enjoyable people that I've ever taught," said Larry. "They leave this program with new skills they can apply on the course and an increased confidence they can apply in life."

Adaptive Recreation Supervisor Susie Miller is also excited about the league's success. "This program wouldn't be possible without Larry's and Mike's



Photo by Polly Norman

Braemar professional golfers Mike Grube (left) and Larry Nelson volunteer their time to Edina's adaptive golf program, which allows individuals with disabilities to learn and enjoy the game of golf.

enthusiasm and commitment to the league and its members."

The program exists not only because of the efforts of Larry and Mike, but also because of the help of numerous volunteers. However, due to the program's immense popularity, additional volunteers are always needed. "We only require that volunteers know how to play golf, care about people and like to have fun," said Larry.

Because of the Edina league's success, Larry hopes to provide the means for other cities and golf courses to offer this program in the future. Currently, the City of Edina offers the only adaptive golf program for people with developmental disabilities in the metro area.

The eight-week program runs from the beginning of May to mid-July and is open to people ages 10 and older. Green time is held every Friday evening from 7:30 p.m. until dark. Participants are grouped in teams of four, depending on their age and ability level.

For more information about the adaptive golf program or becoming a volunteer, please contact Adaptive Recreation Supervisor Susie Miller, 952-826-0433.

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Don't Miss Safety Camp!

This year's Safety Camp will offer a fun-filled day of learning and excitement for children who have completed grades three and four. McGruff the Crime Dog, Sparky the Fire Dog and other friends will join participants for interactive games and activities relating to a variety of safety issues. Safety Camp will be held on Tuesday, Aug. 7, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Fire Station No. 2, located at 7335 York Ave. The day will not only provide the children with a great time but also a stimulating forum for sharing life-saving information.

"Children at this age are ideal for the program because they are attentive, able to retain the information easily and eager to participate in the activities," said Donna Tilsner, Recreation Supervisor.

Representatives from various organizations in the Twin Cities will join members of the City staff to discuss and educate the expected group of 80 children about various safety topics. The topics and organizations include:

- Water safety, Hennepin County Water Patrol
- Electrical safety, Northern States Power Company
- Personal safety, Missing Children Minnesota
- First Aid, Edina paramedics
- Fire House, Southwest Fire Mutual Aid Association

"We're very excited about Safety Camp," said Tom Jenson, Fire Marshal. "We feel that it is our responsibility to teach children how to keep themselves safe, and what better way for them to learn than by having fun at the same time."

The event will be held rain or shine. Registration is \$10 per child for the entire day and includes lunch and a souvenir T-shirt. There will be an awards ceremony held at the end of the day, which parents are welcome to attend.

Safety Camp is sponsored by the Park and Recreation Department and the Edina Fire and Police Departments. To register, call the Park and Recreation office at 952-826-0367.

Businesses that are interested in donating grab bag items, which will be distributed at the end of the day, should contact Adaptive Recreation Supervisor Susie Miller, 952-826-0433.



Safety Camp 2001 will offer an exciting day of learning and fun for children starting fourth or fifth grade. Kids will receive a free T-shirt and have the chance to meet Sparky the Fire Dog and McGruff the Crime Dog.

VEAP Continues Back-To-School Program

Volunteers Enlisted to Assist People (VEAP) needs your help in giving our less-fortunate neighborhood children the opportunity to start the school year with the supplies necessary for a good education.

VEAP's Back-to-School Program provides every child with a bag of basic school materials plus a backpack or calculator, and six pairs of socks and underwear. Last year, more than 1,000 children received supplies, which was a 12 percent increase over the prior year. Based on statistics from other programs, VEAP expects a similar double-digit increase in usage this year.

VEAP distributes an average of \$66 in school supplies, socks and underwear per child to ensure that every child has the basic tools necessary for a successful school experience. You can make a real difference in a child's education by donating some of the items listed on the wish list below or by sponsoring a child with donated dollars.

VEAP'S BACK-TO-SCHOOL WISH LIST

- | | |
|-------------|----------------------------|
| Socks – | Boys' sizes 7-8½ and 9-11* |
| | Mens' sizes 10-13* |
| | Girls' sizes 7-8½ |
| | Women's sizes 9-11* |
| Underwear – | Boys' sizes 8-14* |
| | Mens' sizes S-XL* |
| | Girls' sizes 8-14 |
| | Women's sizes 5-8* |

- | | |
|---|------------------------------|
| Backpacks* | |
| Scientific calculators* | |
| Spiral notebooks – | wide and college ruled* |
| Loose-leaf paper – | wide and college ruled* |
| Folders – | 2-pocket, solid basic colors |
| No. 2 Pencils – | packages of 8-10 |
| Ink pens – | blue or black only |
| Colored pencils* | |
| Markers – | waterbased and nonpermanent |
| Highlighters | |
| Pencil boxes or zippered pencil pouches | |
| Full-size erasers | |
| Rulers – | 12-inch with metric* |
| Scissors – | metal fiskars sharp point |
| Elmers white glue | |
| Glue sticks | |
| | *Most needed items |

VEAP, which serves the communities of Edina, Bloomington and Richfield, cannot accept used items.

Donations will be accepted by VEAP June 1 through Aug. 23 and can be sent to the VEAP office, 9731 James Ave. S., Bloomington. Collection sites will be set up in the community starting Aug. 1, and volunteer opportunities will begin Aug. 3. Donated items will be distributed during the last week of August.

For more information, contact VEAP at 952-888-9616, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

City Benefits From Increased Wine Sales At Edina Liquor Stores

The last three years have provided significant growth for Edina Liquor, which has also resulted in improved streets, better parks and stable taxes for the residents of Edina. Net income from the three municipally-owned liquor stores has increased from \$767,298 in 1998 to \$984,320 in 2000, with a notable increase in wine sales.

“Every year we face the challenge to increase our net profit for the City,” said Steve Grausam, director of liquor store operations, Edina Liquor. “We’re pleased to exceed expectations and look forward to continuing the pace we have set.”

Over the last decade, Edina Liquor has seen a shift from beer, liquor and jug wine sales to an increase in premium wine sales. “Wine accounts for more than 40 percent of sales among the three locations,” said Grausam. In 2000, wine sales totaled \$3,650,130, a 9.6 percent increase over 1998. Grausam accounts the boost in wine sales to a variety of factors, including more sophisticated palates, increase in world travel and more disposable income. The ability to have wine by the glass at many local restaurants has also increased the number of requests for wine in the stores.

Edina Liquor has strived to meet the demands of its customers by offering a wide selection of wines, including many hard-to-find and limited bottles. Each convenient location provides a nice shopping environment and knowledgeable staff making wine selection and purchasing a welcome and enjoyable experience. Edina Liquor employees are pleased to assist customers in



Photo by Polly Norman

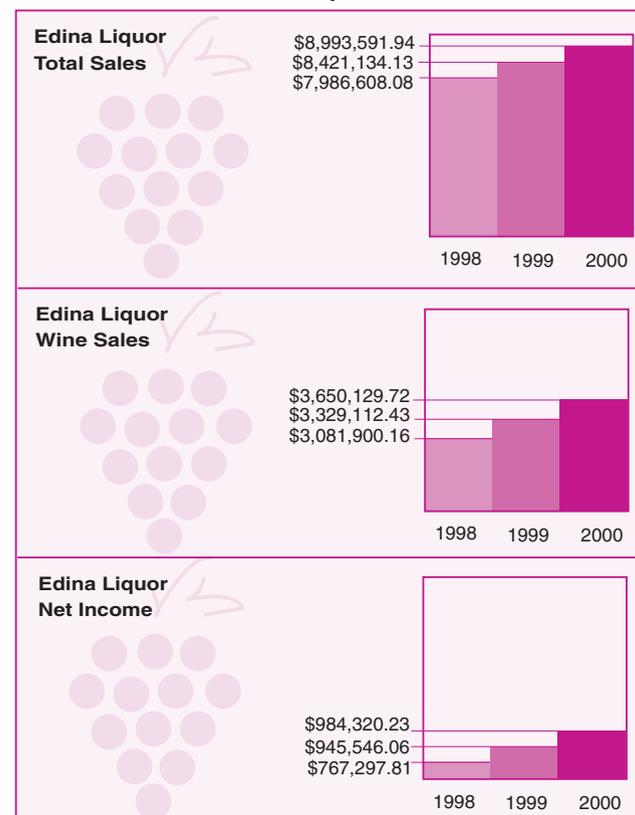
Employee Rosie Nelson helps a customer with his wine purchase at the Edina Liquor Store located on York Avenue. Edina Liquor offers a large selection of premium wines to meet almost any budget or palate.

selecting the perfect wine to complement a special meal or occasion.

Recently, a legislative bill was proposed to allow the sale of wine in Minnesota grocery stores. That bill has been benched for the 2001 legislation, but may recur next year. It is important for Edinans to understand the benefits of having municipal liquor stores. The revenue from Edina Liquor is returned directly to the City allowing taxes to remain low and improving City programs and services. Employees at Edina Liquor are also extremely responsible and take the laws regarding alcohol consumption seriously. Employees are stringent about checking identification and enforcing responsibility and accountability. This is one of the reasons why Edina

Liquor stopped selling beer kegs in the mid-1980s. “What we do is a reflection on the City,” said Grausam.

“We’re providing a service that has many social and ethical implications, so we’re striving to hold a high standard and to also serve our community.”



Think Globally. Buy Locally.

No matter what you're looking for in spirits, chances are any of your three Edina Municipal Liquor Stores can help you. Our knowledgeable and friendly staff will be happy to guide you through our world class selection to find just what you want. And while our products come from all over the globe, our profits stay right here in Edina, keeping our parks clean, our roads smooth and our taxes low. Truly the best of both worlds.

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Edina's Municipal Liquor Stores
Grandview (near Jerry's Foods) • Southdale (next to Cub)
• 50th & France (next to Lunds)